

STATEMENT
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67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women
Parallel Event

“Inclusive Student Engaged Learning Model to Empower Mountain Women Globally”
March 6th, 2023.

Hello, my name is Joshua Kooyman. I am a National Security student at UVU, the president of Sustainable Mountain Development club at UVU, and the head researcher, writer, and writing manager of the UVU podcast In the Interest of National Security. Today I am pleased to address you all on the Student Engaged Learning Model, or SEL for short, and how it has impacted me as a non-traditional student.

What is SEL? SEL empowers traditional and non-traditional students to work together as a group to solve real-world problems with faculty as mentors. The following is an account on how I utilized the SEL model to advocate for the SMD by managing, planning, running, and moderating UVU's 2022 13th annual celebration of International Mountain Day, the theme of which was “Women Move Mountains”.

I began preparing for the event months in advance by creating a comprehensive task list. This document contained a list of all tasks that needed to be completed before, during, and after the event, as well as due dates for each task to ensure their completion. Many of my peers helped me in the creation of this document and the fulfillment of the necessary tasks. I give them my gratitude for this today.

Preparing for this event was not easy. I learned how to delegate assignments, manage groups, obtain necessary supplies, improve my networking skills, and speak professionally.

By the time International Mountain Day arrived, I was confident that it would run smoothly, and it did. All of the speakers were phenomenal, discussing subjects such as challenges women face in India, finding comradery across cultures, and unique challenges faced by women in South Sudan. A review of the event as well as all of the speaker's words can be found at the Utah International Mountain Forum Website. Thank you.